

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 21, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 13-16 and 18-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant notes that claims 13-16 and 22 have been canceled through this Response. Regarding claims 18-20, Applicant has amended the claims to explicitly recite a “computer-readable medium”. Applicant respectfully submits that such a medium at least qualifies as a “manufacture” under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 7-14, 18, and 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Mackiewicz, et al.* (“Mackiewicz,” U.S. Pat. No. 4,713,756). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As indicated above, each remaining independent claim has been amended through this Response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against Applicant’s claims in a previous form. Applicant therefore requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits of the Mackiewicz reference, Applicant notes that Mackiewicz does not teach a method or system in which a computer receives from a connected external storage device an indication that the external storage device has completed writing to non-volatile memory of the external storage device and, in response, the computer deactivates a write-in-progress indicator to convey to a user that it is safe to disconnect the external storage device from the computer. Instead, Mackiewicz teaches that a “BUSY” indication is signaled by a storage device “when information is being exchanged between” the storage device and a PC to which the storage device is connected. *Mackiewicz*, column 5, lines 12-15. Accordingly, unlike Applicant’s claimed inventions, Mackiewicz’s system suffers from drawbacks identified by Applicant in the “Background” section of Applicant’s specification. *See Applicant’s specification*, page 2, lines 1-9.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-6, 15-17, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mackiewicz* in view of *Huang* (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0171999). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Mackiewicz does not teach aspects of Applicant’s claims. In that Huang does not remedy the deficiencies of the Mackiewicz reference, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6 and 19 are allowable over the Mackiewicz/Huang combination for at least the same reasons that Applicant’s other claims are allowable over Mackiewicz.

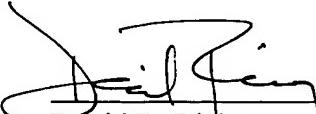
IV. Canceled Claims

Claims 10, 11, 13-17, 21, and 22 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

9-25-06
Mary Meeg
Signature